

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an image input-output apparatus capable of a copy mode operation for printing image data, read by an image reader unit, by a printer engine, a print mode operation for converting document data from an upper apparatus into image data in a memory and printing the image data, stored in the memory, by the printer engine, or a read mode operation for storing the image data, read by the image reader unit, in the memory, the reading operation by the image reader unit and the printing operation by the printer engine in the copy mode operation are mutually synchronized whereby the image data read by the image reader unit are directly transmitted to the printer engine, and, in the print mode operation or in the read mode operation, the memory is accessed according to the operation of the printer engine and the image reader. In particular the print mode includes a first mode operating with a limited memory capacity and a second mode operating requiring a relatively large memory capacity. The image input-output apparatus judges, based on the input document data, whether the operation in the first mode is possible, and, if possible, the print mode operation and the read mode operation are permitted in parallel. If the operation in the first mode is not possible, such parallel operation is inhibited. In case of a request for a copy mode operation in the course of a

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print mode operation, the print mode operation is interrupted and the copy mode operation is executed and the print result is outputted in empty bins if there can be met predetermined conditions such as

5 availability of empty ones in the sorter bins of the printer engine.

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